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AN EXTENSION OF ALTITUDE RANGE FOR TWO MANNIKIN SPECIES

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On 3 April 1986 at Myola, Northern Province 09° 09' S, 147° 45' E two Eastern Alpine Mannikins *Lonchura monticola* were observed on the edge of a flock of c. 100 Grey-headed Mannikins *L. caniceps*, feeding on the short grass of the airstrip. Two birds were subsequently seen on the moss-forest/grassland border, again in the company of Grey-headed Mannikins. Myola, at 2080 m, lies well below the normal altitude range for Eastern Alpine Mannikins, given as 2700 m to 3500 m in Beehler *et al.* (1986) and 9000' to 12000' (2750 m to 3400 m) in Rand and Gilliard (1967). In the days preceding the observation there had been very heavy and continuous rainfall. This might have caused the birds to move lower. Grey-headed Mannikins had been recorded on each of the five days prior to this observation. The Eastern Alpine Mannikins were seen by six other observers. In September 1987 Eastern Alpine Mannikins were found to be common in the tree fern forest located 2 km from Myola 500 m higher (M.J.G. Hopkins, pers. comm.).

Grey-headed Mannikins have been recorded at Myola on previous and subsequent visits: April 1985 P. Lambley, June 1986 J. Oliver, April 1987 H.C.F. Hopkins & P. Lambley (pers. comms), and in September 1985 and June and September 1987 (pers. obs). They have usually been observed feeding in the grasslands of the Myola basin or along the moss-forest/grassland edge. Myola is higher than the upper altitude limit for this species given by Beehler *et al.* (1986) as 1900 m, and by Rand & Gilliard (1967) as 5800' (c. 1800 m). The regular recording of this species suggests it is a resident in the area.

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THE LOGRUNNER, *ORTHONYX TEMMINCKII* (ORTHONYCHIDAE), AT TARI GAP, SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS PROVINCE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

CLIFFORD AND DAWN FRITH

To date the Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii* has been considered to have a conspicuously discontinuous distribution on the island of New Guinea. The three apparently isolated Papuan populations are each given subspecific status: *O. t. novaeguineae* of the Vogelkop in Irian Jaya, *O. t. dorsalis* of the Snow Mountains in Irian Jaya, and *O. t. victoriana* of the Wharton Range and Herzog Mountains of south-east New Guinea between 1200 and 2800 metres above sea level (Deignan 1964, Rand & Gilliard 1967, Beehler *et al.* 1986). A recent sighting of the species on Mt. Scratchley by Clapp (1986) has extended its altitudinal range to 3450 m. The species was unknown from the Eastern and Central Highlands of Papua New Guinea (Diamond 1972, Beehler *et al.* 1986).

During September and October 1986 the authors carried out a bird mist-netting and banding study at six sites in the moss forest of the Tari Gap area (5°58' S 143°8' E), Southern Highlands Province, at altitudes predominantly between 2600 and 2800 m. The study was conducted on behalf of the Wildlife Conservation International, of the New York Zoological Society. A total of 266 hours was spent with four 12 m and four 9 m mist nets erect during 32 netting days. Thus there was an average of 8.3 hours each netting day with 84 linear metres of mist net.

On 12 September 1986 a female Logrunner was netted, and on 30 September a male was caught 2 km from the capture point of the female. Both birds were in adult plumage without moult (see Table 1).

Table 1. Measurements of two banded *Orthonyx temminckii* mist-netted at Tari Gap, Southern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea.

Band No.	Sex	Weight	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Culmen	Skull+bill
05099314	F	55.1g	85	66	29	-	38.9
05099346	M	61.5g	87	82	34	17.1	39.9

Note: Skull+bill is the maximum length from rear skull to bill tip. Wing is the maximum, flattened chord. Culmen is from bill tip to union with skull. All measurements are in mm.